

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (Allowed) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 34.

Claims 18-104 (canceled)

Claim 105 (New) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule, wherein the polypeptide inhibits cellular apoptosis and wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to the full length complement of an open reading frame (ORF) of a nucleic acid molecule, said ORF consisting of nucleotides 2811-2921, 3174-3283, 5158-5275 and 11955-12041 of SEQ ID NO: 35, which encodes SEQ ID NO: 34, under conditions comprising washing with 0.015 M NaCl, 0.0015 M sodium citrate, 0.1% NaDodSO₄ at 50°C.

Claim 106 (New) An isolated polypeptide that inhibits cellular apoptosis, wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes to a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO: 34, under conditions comprising washing with 0.015 M NaCl, 0.0015 M sodium citrate, 0.1% NaDodSO₄ at 50°C.

Claim 107 (New) An isolated polypeptide of claim 105 or 106, wherein hybridization conditions further comprises hybridizing in 50% (vol/vol) formamide with 0.1% bovine serum albumin, 0.1% Ficoll, 0.1% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer at pH 6.5 with 750 mM NaCl, 75 mM sodium citrate at 42°C.

Claim 108 (New) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule, wherein the polypeptide inhibits cellular apoptosis and wherein the nucleic acid molecule hybridizes to the full length complement of an open reading frame (ORF) of a nucleic acid molecule, said ORF consisting of nucleotides 2811-2921, 3174-3283, 5158-5275 and 11955-12041 of SEQ ID NO: 35, which encodes SEQ ID NO: 34, under conditions comprising hybridizing in 50% formamide, 5X SSC (0.75 M NaCl, 0.075 M sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5X Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon sperm DNA (50µg/ml), 0.1 % SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42°C, with washes at 42°C in 0.2X SSC and 0.1% SDS.

Claim 109 (New) The isolated polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108, wherein the polypeptide is a mammalian polypeptide.

Claim 110 (New) The isolated polypeptide of claim 109, wherein the mammalian polypeptide is a human polypeptide.

Claim 111 (New) A polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108, wherein the polypeptide has a molecular weight of 16.5 KDa as determined by SDS PAGE.

Claim 112 (New) A polypeptide of claim 111, wherein the polypeptide is a mammalian polypeptide.

Claim 113 (New) A polypeptide of claim 112, wherein the polypeptide is a human polypeptide.

Claim 114 (New) A polypeptide of claim 113, wherein the polypeptide consists essentially of the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 34.

Claim 115 (New) A polypeptide of claim 113, wherein the polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 34.

Claim 116 (New) A polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 34.

Claim 117 (New) A polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 15 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 34.

Claim 118 (New) A polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108, wherein the polypeptide comprises at least 17 contiguous amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 34.

Claim 119 (New) A polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108, wherein the polypeptide comprises a β COOH coiled-coil region.

Claim 120 (New) A polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108, wherein the polypeptide comprises a BIR domain.

Claim 121 (New) A polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108, wherein the polypeptide further comprises a heterologous amino acid sequence.

Claim 122 (New) A polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108 comprising SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 123 (New) A polypeptide of claim 105, 106, or 108 comprising the sequence EGWEPDDDDPIEEHKKHSSGC (SEQ ID NO: 4).

Claim 124 (New) A fusion protein comprising a polypeptide of any one of claims 17, 105, 106, or 108.

Claim 125 (New) A fusion protein of claim 124, wherein the fusion protein comprises a C-terminal RING finger domain.

Claim 126 (New) A composition comprising a polypeptide of any one of claims 17, 105, 106, or 108.

Claim 127 (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polypeptide of any one of claims 17, 105, 106, or 108, and a carrier.